

Maundy Thursday – April 9, 2020
Pastor Shane Russo



*Maundy
Thursday*

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERIES

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

The grace of the Lord be with us all.

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord for Christ have prepared a feast of love.

Hymn *We Gather Together

#131 UMH

Responsive Reading

My sisters and brothers, Christ showed us his love by becoming a humble servant. Let us draw near to God and confess our sin in the truth of God's Spirit.

**Most merciful God,
We your Church confess
That often our spirit has not been that of Christ.
Where we have failed to love one another as he loves us,
Where we have pledged loyalty to him with our lips
And then betrayed, deserted, or denied him,
Forgive us, we pray;
And by your Spirit make us faithful in every time of trial;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ.
But Christ suffered and died for us,
Was raised from the dead and ascended on high for us,
And continues to intercede for us.
Believe the good news;
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer
The Lord's Prayer

Hymn *Love Divine*

#384 UMH

Scripture 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

²³I passed on to you the tradition the Lord gave to me: On the same night the Lord Jesus was betrayed, He took the bread *in His hands*; ²⁴and after giving thanks *to God*, He broke it and said, "This is My body, *broken* for you. Keep doing this so that you *and all who come after* will have a vivid reminder of Me." ²⁵After they had finished dinner, He took the cup and in the same way said, "This cup is the new covenant, *executed* in My blood. Keep doing this; and whenever you drink it, you *and all who come after* will have a vivid reminder of Me." ²⁶Every time you taste this bread and every time you place the cup *to your mouths* and drink, you are declaring the Lord's death, *which is the ultimate expression of His faithfulness and love*, until He comes again.

Sermon

Keep Doing This

Communion**

(Pause to invite those who have not already prepared elements to do so. Assure them that even an English muffin can become a sacrament, even a cup of water or tea become a remembrance of God's redeeming love)

Invitation

For Holy Communion this evening,
I invite you to lend Christ your table.
On the first day of Holy Week long ago,
people throughout Judea arrived
at the dusty gates of Jerusalem,
primed with "Hosanna" in their hearts
and Jesus asked to borrow a donkey.

On the Thursday that followed,
Jesus rented or was given
John Mark's mother's Upper Room
to celebrate the Passover with the disciples.

On the afternoon of the resurrection,
Jesus was invited into a house in Emmaus

and used the bread of that hospitality
to break and bless.

Lend Christ your table, your bread, your cup and your heart,
for, as the disciples told the person who loaned the donkey,
"The Lord has need of it."

Prayer of Consecration

Leader: We are one bread, one body, one cup of blessing.
Though we are many throughout the earth
and this church community is scattered,
In your many kitchens, and living rooms,
rest your hands lightly upon these elements
which we set aside today to be a sacrament.
Let us ask God's blessing upon them.

**Unison: Gentle Redeemer, there is no lockdown on
your blessing
and no quarantine on grace.
Send your Spirit of life and love,
power and blessing
upon every table where your child shelters in
place,
that this Bread may be broken and gathered in
love
and this Cup poured out to give hope to all.
Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in
you.
Breathe in us, that we may breathe in you.**

Words of Remembering

Leader: We remember that Paul the apostle
wrote letters to congregations throughout places
we now call Greece, Turkey and Macedonia,
and they were the first "remote" worship resources.
Our online service has a long heritage.

The Communion words sent to the church at Corinth were these:

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you,
that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed
took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said,
"This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying,
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."
For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Sharing of the Elements

Leader: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the

Unison: Bread of Heaven.

We are one in Christ in the bread we share.

Leader: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Cup

Unison: of Blessing.

We are one in Christ in the cup we share.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: Let us pray in thanksgiving for this meal of grace, rejoicing that, by the very method of our worship, we have embodied the truth that Christ's love is not limited by buildings made with human hands, nor contained in human ceremonies, but blows as free as the Spirit in all places.

Unison: Spirit of Christ, you have blessed our tables and our lives.

May the eating of this Bread give us courage to speak faith and act love, not only in church

**sanctuaries, but in your precious world,
and may the drinking of this Cup renew our
hope
even in the midst of pandemic.
Wrap your hopeful presence around all
whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing,
and let us become your compassion and safe
refuge. Amen**

Hymn *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart* #629 UMH

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***Benediction**

Thank you for joining us in worship today!

**This liturgy was written by Rev. Maren C. Tirabassi and was adapted with permission.

[https://www.ucc.org/online communion palm sunday april 5 tirabassi](https://www.ucc.org/online_communion_palm_sunday_april_5_tirabassi)